

BIENNIAL REPORT
—OF THE—
TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT
—OF THE—
INSTITUTION
—FOR THE—
INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND,
—TO THE—
LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI,
—FOR THE—
YEARS 1892 AND 1893.

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY.

JACKSON, MISS.:
CLARION-LEDGER PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1894.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT.

To the Legislature of the State of Mississippi :

GENTLEMEN:—We herewith present to your honorable body our biennial report as Trustees of the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, for the years 1892 and 1893; and would most respectfully call your attention to the full reports herein contained of the Superintendent and Secretary.

Governor Stone, as ex-officio President of the Board of Trustees, has presided over all our meetings, and to him we are greatly indebted for his watchful care and superior counsel in the management of the Institution.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. MANSHIP,
E. VIRDEN,
J. T. H. LAIRD,
E. M. PARKER,
H. H. HINES,
Board of Trustees.

Officers for 1892 and 1893.

Trustees.

HIS EXCELLENCY J. M. STONE, GOVERNOR, PRESIDENT.
C. H. MANSHIP, E. VIRDEN,
H. H. HINES, E. M. PARKER,
J. T. H. LAIRD.

Superintendent.

DR. P. FAIRLY.

Teachers in Literary Department.

MISS RHODA CARR, MISS AGNES GREEN.

Teacher in Music.

MISS S. D. LANGLEY.

Teachers in Handicraft.

MISS REBECCA SMITH, MISS MARY JOHNSON.

Matron.

MISS H. L. LANGLEY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Trustees :

In presenting this, my second biennial report of this Institution, I am happy to state the pupils under my charge are making satisfactory and commendable progress in all their studies, in fact, more so by far, than any previous year of my connection with the Institution.

Since my last report it was the misfortune of this Institution to lose, by death, the valuable services of Miss Mary Lou Langley. She was devoted to the cause in which she was engaged so many years, and her death cast a sad and melancholly gloom over the entire Institution, as well as the community in which she was so well and favorably known.

As monthly reports are submitted to the Board from each teacher as regards the advancement of pupils under their charge, I do not deem it necessary to repeat the same here. Suffice it to say the teachers are competent and faithful in every respect, and have at heart the interest and advancement and prosperity of those under their charge.

It was my pleasure to be present at the convention of superintendents and teachers of the blind of the United States and Canada, at Brantford, Ontario, in July of 1892. The meeting to me was not only pleasant but profitable. The most important matter that came before the convention was the publication of books. The government of the United States has appropriated the sum of \$250,000 for the education of the blind within its borders; this amount is placed in bonds bearing interest at 4 per cent.; the interest, amounting to \$10,000 annually, is used for the printing of books for the blind, the publishing house being located at Louisville, Kentucky.

There are three systems now in use, viz : the Roman or raised letters, the New York Point and the Braille System. The Roman, or raised letters, has ever been in use in educating the blind ; the New York Point consists in a regular system of indentations made in stiff paper by means of a blunt stilus, a certain number of these points occupying a certain position with respect to each other, representing the

respective letters of the alphabet. At the meeting all books were ordered to be printed in this system, thus doing away with the further printing of books in raised letters. This action I considered a mistake. The New York Point should be used as an auxiliary to the raised letters, but not to its utter exclusion. There are some of the Institutions for the Blind use the Braille system, which is a Point print, different from the New York Point, invented by Louis Braille, of France, but it has been modified in so many different ways that it is a difficult matter to know what is meant when you speak of the Braille system. What we need is a uniformity of printed book, all of the same system the world over, but more particularly in the United States; but as some prefer the Roman, some the New York Point, while others desire the Braille, and the feelings of each party representing his wishes in the matter are considerably wrought up, I fear that a perfect, permanent and satisfactory uniformity will not soon be reached.

The State of Mississippi is noted for the deep interest it has ever taken in educating all classes of its citizens, in fact stands pre-eminent to any State in the Union upon this subject. Thus we have the State University for the whites, both male and female, the A. & M. College for young men and boys, I. I. & C. for our girls, Alcorn University for the colored, the D. & D. Institute for both white and colored, and this institution for the blind (white). All of these institutions are liberally supported by the State, thus making ample provision for the education of all classes of its citizens except *one*; that class is the blind negro. In this State there is quite a number of this class of unfortunate persons, and as no provision has ever been made for their education, it is to be hoped that the Legislature will make an appropriation for this purpose.

Under the administration of the present able and economical Board of Trustees, I think the amount appropriated for support at the last session of the Legislature will be sufficient, and while upon this subject will say that this Institution is conducted upon a basis by far cheaper than any institution of the kind in the United States or Canada. The salaries paid the literary teachers are inadequate for the labors they perform; as efficient and pains-taking teachers as are employed in this institution should be paid in a manner commensurate with their labor.

The amount appropriated for repairs at the last session of the Legislature was judiciously expended, but was insufficient for the purpose intended; it is to be hoped a sufficient amount will be appropriated to meet the needed requirements.

A piano is also much needed; one of our pianos, from long continued use, has become almost valueless.

A much desired branch to be taught in this institution is piano-tuning. In some institutions the blind are taught telegraphy, saddle and harness making, making shoes, etc., but such will prove expensive experiments, and will end in perfect failures. It is useless to consume a blind boy's time in teaching him a trade that will force him to compete with machinery in prosecuting it. In piano tuning, owing to their taste as a rule for music, and their fine sense of touch and acute hearing, this branch can be made to them profitable and remunerative.

The health of the household has been comparatively good. Blind persons, for the want of proper muscular development, require prompt and efficient treatment for the slightest ailment, and notwithstanding we have had some severe attacks of various kinds of sickness among them, I am happy to state that we have had no deaths since I have had charge of the institution. My hearty and sincere thanks are due, and are hereby extended to the Governor and Honorable Board of Trustees for uniform kindness extended me, and for the deep interest they have ever manifested for the welfare and happiness of the institution; also thanks are extended to Mrs. Judge Campbell and Mrs. J. J. Evans, for presentation of valuable gifts to each of the blind in the institution, and to editors for the following papers, to-wit: Vicksburg Herald, Goodman Gazette, Institute News and Messenger.

Respectfully,

P. FAIRLY, Supt.

Products for Institute Garden for 1892--93.

Sweet potatoes.....	550 bushels.
Irish potatoes.....	200 bushels.
Vegetables sufficient for Institute.	

List of Pupils for 1892-93.

Name.	County.
Adams, Jesse.....	Carroll
Bradshaw, Chiney.....	Bolivar
Buckley, Noel.....	Copiah
Byrd, Julia.....	Perry
Colquhoun, Hattie.....	Rankin
Clark, T. M.....	Yazoo
Crenshaw, Mary.....	Tallahatchie
Cummings, Virgie.....	Oktibbeha
Caldwell, Adah.....	Pike
Curry, Mattie.....	Grenada
Edmonson, Charles.....	Perry
Edmonson, Jsne.....	Perry
Davis, Savilla Jane.....	Union
Davis, Wm. E.....	Union
Foster, John.....	Winston
Foster, Zula.....	Holmes
Freeman, Carolina.....	Jefferson
Guyton, David.....	Tippah
Holder, Alice.....	Jefferson
Hickman, Ben.....	Lincoln
Johnson, Mary.....	DeSoto
Johnson, Cora.....	DeSoto
Morris, Arnold.....	Copiah
Musselwhite, Steve.....	Yalobusha
Musselwhite, Louis.....	Carroll
Musselwhite, Harry.....	Carroll
Moore, Thomas.....	Lefflore
Martin, John.....	Harrison
Meyers, Zelda.....	Lowndes
Price, Adah.....	Hinds
Rubush, Charlie.....	Lauderdale
Smith, Hulon.....	Rankin
Smith, Amy.....	Holmes
Steed, Joseph.....	Attala
Turner, Pearl.....	Itawamba
Mason, Alice.....	Bolivar
Murray, Ernest.....	Lauderdale
Emmons, Mac.....	Lauderdale

FINANCIAL REPORT 1892-93.

To Salaries and Wages Fund, including Supt....		\$ 7522 00
By disbursements.....	\$ 6095 40	
To balance.....	1426 60	7522 00
<hr/>		
To Support Fund.....		\$ 7000 00
By disbursements.....	\$ 6225 58	
To balance.....	774 42	7000 00
<hr/>		
To Transportation Fund.....		\$ 200 00
By disbursements.....	\$ 150 00	
To balance.....	50 00	200 00
<hr/>		
To Repairs and Stable Fund.....		\$ 1300 00
By disbursements.....	\$ 1297 61	
To balance.....	2 39	1300 00
<hr/>		
Total appropriations.....		\$ 16 022 00
Total expenditures on same.....	\$ 13,768 59	
To balance.....	2253 41	16.022 00

Itemized Statement of Disbursements

FROM JANUARY 1ST, 1892, TO SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1893
ON ABOVE APPROPRIATIONS.

Bran.....	\$ 129 75
Butter.....	208 30
Baking Powder.....	107 07
Books.....	8 77
Blacking.....	2 11
Beans.....	70
Beads.....	17 70
Bluing.....	1 90
Berries.....	20 30
Clothing.....	82 45
Candles.....	22 95
Confections.....	3 25
Cheese.....	78 15
Coffee.....	184 72
Crackers.....	36 63
Car Fare.....	50
Cotton.....	3 00
Corn.....	51 12
Canned Fruits and Vegetables.....	12 29
Coal.....	665 00
Commutation.....	180 00
Clock Tester and Register Strips.....	5 00
Cotton Seed Meal and Hulls.....	19 85
Drugs and Medicines.....	77 90
Extracts, Spices, etc.....	11 65
Eggs and Poultry.....	49 55
Express and Postage.....	27 82
Extra Labor.....	58 05
Freight and Drayage.....	26 27
Flour.....	352 22
Flour (brown).....	13 50
Fruits, Lemons, etc.....	17 24
Fruits (dried).....	21 55
Fertilizers.....	9 50
Gas.....	145 20
Grits.....	18 97
Hardware.....	132 05
Hams.....	249 73
House Furnishings.....	138 27
Hay.....	59 91
Hops.....	1 90
Improved Fire Pots.....	52 00
Ice.....	1 35
Lard.....	203 01
Lye (concentrated).....	6 70
Lime and Cement.....	9 25
Lumber.....	62 45
Meat (fresh).....	946 69
Meat (salt).....	197 43
Mustard.....	1 35
Meal.....	151 13
Mince Mea.....	2 50

ITEMIZED STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS,—CONTINUED.

Molasses.....	80 03
Milk	1 65
Macaroni.....	40 45
Matches.....	2 38
Music, Musical Instruments and Repairs on same.....	104 40
Nurse for Sick Pupil.....	2 75
Needles.....	1 00
Nuts.....	3 30
Oysters.....	6 20
Oats.....	45 43
Oat Meal.....	1 00
Potatoes.....	125 20
Printing.....	6 00
Pepper.....	1 32
Pickles.....	18 80
Peas.....	21 28
Rice.....	141 71
Repairs	1297 41
Stationery	10 65
Sugar	210 23
Soap.....	58 13
Shop Materials.....	195 62
Sardines.....	3 25
Spectacles.....	50
Soda.....	60
Salt.....	13 14
Starch.....	18 48
Stanchions.....	10 50
Shoe Polish.....	75
Seed (garden).....	21 05
Salaries and Wages.....	6096 38
Tea.....	23 34
Transportation.....	150 00
Telephone.....	48 00
Vegetables	23 75
Vinegar	5 34
Wagons, Harness, etc.....	4 97
Wooden Ware.....	1 85
Wood.....	75 00
Total Expenditures.....	\$ 13,768 59
To Balance, September 30, 1893...	2253 41
	\$ 16,022 00

NOTE.—All disbursements are made on accounts approved by the Board of Trustees, and warrants drawn on the State Treasurer, who is Ex-Officio Treasurer of all State Institutions, and signed by the Governor and Secretary, and vouchers for same are in the hands of the Secretary.

APPENDIX.

JACKSON, MISS., December 23, 1893.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for the Blind, had at the Governor's office, this, the 23d day of December, 1893, there were present, Messrs. C. H. Manship, E. Virden, H. H. Hines and E. M. Parker; Governor Stone in the chair.

The Secretary laid before the Board the following communication from the President, together with the circular letter of Governor Stone to the patrons of the institution, with their answers attached, and it was ordered that the same be spread upon the minutes of the Board, and it be published as an appendix to the report of the Board of Trustees to be laid before the Legislature:

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, EXECUTIVE DEPART'MT, }
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, JACKSON, MISS., }
December 22, 1893. }

To the Board of Trustees, Institute for the Blind:

GENTLEMEN: Shortly after your investigation into the conduct and management of the Institute for the Blind upon charges preferred by Mr. R. E. L. Daniel, which resulted in the complete vindication of the officers charged, to-wit: The superintendent and matron, a publication appeared in the city papers over the signature of Mrs. Eugenia Foster reiterating the charges preferred by Mr. Daniel, which statement was indorsed by L. F. Chiles, "Mayor of Jackson."

Upon the appearance of this publication I wrote a circular letter which I addressed to each patron of the institution, except Mrs. Foster, and have received replies from all but two, one of whom is the mother of Miss Crenshaw, an assistant teacher, a young lady of full age who is present in the school and can answer for herself.

It is gratifying to note that not one of the twenty-three patrons who have made answer, sustains, in the least degree, the charges referred to.

I respectfully submit the letter, together with the answers, which are given exactly in the order in which they were received, for your consideration and such action as you may think proper.

J. M. STONE,

President of the Board of Trustees.

BLIND INSTITUTE,
JACKSON, MISS., November 29, 1893. }

In view of the recent damaging publications against the Institute for the Blind, I deem it necessary to make a more minute and extended investigation of the treatment of the blind children of the State entrusted to that institution. I therefore respectfully request that you write me immediately, giving me number, name, sex and age of any children or wards you may have or have had there, how long they have been there, how they have progressed in their studies, and how they have been treated. State whether they have been provided with proper food; whether they have been required to bathe and keep clean; whether their clothes have been washed regularly, and required to be changed as often as necessary.

I will thank you for a full, free and candid statement of the treatment of any child or children or ward you have or have had at this institution.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, requesting a prompt reply and asking that this letter be returned with your answer, I am very truly yours,

J. M. STONE, Gov. Miss.

The foregoing letter was directed to the following patrons of the Blind Institute, to-wit: Mrs. Kate Adams, McCarley, Miss.; Mr. Ben Buckley, Wesson; Mr. W. W. Byrd, Hattiesburg; Mr. Geo. S. Edmondson, Styx; Mr. T. J. Price, Carpenter; Mr. W. H. Myers, Brooksville; Mr. T. L. Mason, Mound Landing; Mrs. C. Johnson, Red Lick; Mr. T. M. Cummings, Starkville; Mr. M. J. Crenshaw, Payne's Store; Mrs. Josephine Freeman, Harriston; Mr. Dan Foster, Pugh; Mr. John Colquhoun, Cato; Mrs. M. E. Hickman, Monticello; Mr. D. M. Johnson, Love's Station; Mr. J. J. Turner, Mantachie; Mrs. Jeenie Murray, Meridian; Mr. C. M. Rubush, Meridian; Mr. W. P. Musselwhite, Smith's Mills; Mrs. W. W. Bunch, Summit; Mr. R. J. Morris, Beauregard, Miss.; Mr. John Moore, Sidon, Miss.; Mrs. Anna Curry, Cascilla, Miss.; Mr. A. T. Steed, Newtonville, Miss.; Mr. J. J. Guyton, Guyton, Miss.; twenty-five in all.

The following replies have been received:

1. November 30th, Mr. R. J. Morris, Beauregard, writes: "In reply to yours of yesterday, I had one son; his name is Arnold R. Morris, been four sessions in the Blind Institute. I asked him the following questions: Did you ever

have any complaint against the teachers? His answer. No. As long as you were there did you have clean bedding, clothes and bath? His answer. Yes. Why did you stop this session? His answer. No violin teacher and no upholstery teacher. In regard to the board he has always been satisfied, had plenty to eat. Should you wish my son Arnold to come up and be present with the Board for more questions, please write."

2. November 30th, Mr. D. M. Johnson, Love's Station, writes: "I received your letter this morning and was surprised you wanted to know how many children I had at school. I have two there, Mary and Cora. Mary went to school when she was 19 years old; Cora went there three months after Mary went. Mary was twenty-six years old last August. Cora was in her 7th year. She will be fifteen the 12th of June. Of course, I don't know anything but what they told me. They said they had plenty to eat; they had to bathe every Saturday, and put on clean clothes whether they wanted to or not; their beds had to be changed also; their rooms had to be brushed every day; they said their clothes were washed every week; they told me all were treated alike. We are well satisfied; I am well pleased with their treatment, and well pleased with their learning, I think they have improved wonderfully. If I had not been pleased I would have taken them home, if I am poor. Mary and Cora are always anxious to go back, and I think they are treated kindly or they would not want to go. I thank you to stand up to my daughters while they can't see."

3. November 30th, Mr. T. M. Cummings, Starkville, writes: "Yours of the 28th inst., received, and in reply state that my little daughter, Virgie Lee Cummings, has been going to school at the Blind Institute for the last five or six years. She is about 13 years of age now, she has progressed very fast in her studies, and has been treated, as far as I have been able to learn from her, and my own personal visits to the Institute, as well as could be. She has always told me and her mamma that she likes Dr. Fairly and the Misses Langley very much, and that they were kind to her. She said time and again that the children had plenty to eat, and that she was required to bathe once a week, and that her clothes were washed regularly and required to change as often as necessary. I have visited the Institute three or four times a year ever since my little daughter has been going to school at the Institute. I have always found her clothing clean and neat, and have questioned her often as to how she was treated, and she would say that the officers of the Institute were very kind to her, and that she

was well satisfied. My wife visited the Institute and remained there three or four days, and she says everything was kept neatly, and that the children all looked cleanly and were in good spirits. I am perfectly satisfied with Dr. Fairly and the Misses Langley."

4. November 30th, Ben Buckley, Wesson, writes: "I have one son, Noel Buckley, aged fourteen years; has been there two and a half sessions; I am well pleased at the way he advanced. In regard to the treatment of my son, I am well pleased. I am well pleased with his fare and cleanliness; I am satisfied with the way his clothes are kept, and am also satisfied with the way you had him to change his clothes. I have answered all your questions and will add that I am pleased with the school in every respect."

5. December 1st, Mr. C. M. Rubush, Meridian, writes: "I have one son, seventeen years old, who has been one of the scholars attending the Institute for the Blind for the last seven sessions. He seems to be well advanced in his studies as far as we are able to judge, and have heard no complaint as to his treatment or insufficiency of food. I think he is perfectly satisfied with the surroundings. True he would prefer being at home."

6. December 1st, Mrs. Jennie Murray, Meridian, writes: "I sent my boy, Ernest, aged twelve years, to the Institute in 1892. I visited him last April. I found him in perfect health and much happier than I had ever seen him. He had made great progress in his studies, his clothing and bathing had been as well attended to as though I had been with him. I went through the building and found every place kept in sanitary order. I owe Dr. Fairly and the teachers much gratitude for their kind treatment and good, faithful attention to my blind boy. I could not conscientiously make any other statement than this."

7. December 1st, Mrs. W. W. Bunch, Summit, writes: "I have a sister attending the Institute; has been there since October, 1893. I hear from her regularly, and she seems to be perfectly satisfied, and writes me that everything was so nice and she loves them already, and she was getting along nicely with her studies and loved her teachers. She has not said anything about the food, but I talked with a young blind man who has been there for years, and he told me they had plenty to eat, and that if I could not provide my sister with clothes, they would. He spoke in highest terms of the Institute. My sister's name is Ada Caldwell. I think you are kind in writing me. I love my poor blind sister, and it would hurt me very much to know she was not

treated right. She is not compelled to stay there ; she only went to learn something to employ herself, it is so lonely for her to have nothing to do."

8. December 1st, Mr. W. H. Myers, Brooksville, writes : "I have a sister there at school, seventeen years old ; has been there for several years, I do not know exactly how long. She has gotten along very well with her studies. I think the food is as good as in any school for the size of it ; as to cleanliness, I have not heard anything to the contrary. Sister says they are very kind to her. Their clothes are washed regularly, or I would have heard something about it. Clothes changed often as necessary, or would have heard of it. Sister speaks very highly of Dr. Fairly and the teachers. Zelda Myers is my sister's name. This is as true a statement as I can give, as I have never visited the school myself."

9 December 1st, Mr. John Colquhoun, Cato, Miss, writes : "I have one daughter in that institution named Harriet Ann, familiarly called 'Hattie,' age between nineteen and twenty years. She entered the school in February or March, 1890, and has been there most of the time since. She has progressed in her studies far beyond my expectation. She has been treated kindly and has been provided with proper food ; as for cleanliness and change of clothing, that has been strictly complied with. I have been there frequently myself, and never saw a cleaner, nicer lot of pupils in any school, and consider the Institution managed as well as it possibly can be."

10. December 4th, Mr. T. J. Price, Carpenter, writes ; "I have one child at the Blind Institute ; her name is Ada, age twenty-five years ; this is her fifth session there, will say that her progress is satisfactory. As to other questions, I have heard no complaint from my daughter. I have visited the Blind Institute frequently since my daughter has been in attendance there, and from my own observation thought it was properly managed. I was very much surprised when I saw the charges of Mrs. Foster and others."

11. December 4th, Mrs. Kate Adams, McCarley, Miss., writes : "I can give very little information, as I have never visited the Institute. I have a son there, Jesse Adams, who entered at twelve and is now seventeen years old. Has been there the best of five sessions. He has progressed rapidly in his studies ; in fact, far beyond my expectation. When he came home at the close of the first session I questioned him concerning their cleanliness of person. He told me they were required to bathe well once a week, and change

clothing once, or twice if necessary. Also that the chambermaid combed and examined their heads once a week. I have not asked him anything about their cleanliness since, but judging from his clothing when he comes home, which is always mended, washed and ironed, I think it is pretty well attended to. He tells me Dr. Fairly never punishes, always speaks kindly to them, and allows them to play with and associate with his (Dr. Fairly's) children. He is a boy who scarcely ever makes complaint, in fact, he never complained at anything except his food. I sent for him last Christmas to come and spend the holidays. He was looking so badly that I thought he had been sick, and when I questioned him he said that he had not, but had suffered for proper food; said he could not live upon the food they furnished; that it was not the quantity, but the quality and poor cooking, and I have every reason to believe it, as he improved in appearance and weight in a week's time. I did not send him back last session, as I could not conscientiously sit down to a well-filled table knowing that my blind child was suffering for the right kind of food. I thought then I would never send him back, but when the present session began he was so anxious to continue his studies that I let him go back. and told him to go to Dr. Fairly and tell him that he must have better fare; that he could not live on the food that was furnished, and if he did not get better to let me know and I would bring him home. I have heard nothing yet about his fare, but am fully decided to bring him home if there is not a change in his food. I have tried to give you a fair and impartial statement so far as lies in my power, my motto being to deal fairly and squarely with all mankind."

12. December 4th, Mrs. Josephine Freeman, Harriston, writes: "I am very much surprised to learn that there were any damaging reports in circulation in regard to the Institute for the Blind, as I was in total ignorance of the fact. I have a daughter, Carolina, there, eleven years of age. She was absent from school last session but had attended the two previous sessions. I have no charge to bring against the management of the Institute. I have visited my daughter there and remained a day and night with her. The pupils seemed to be well provided for; their clothes were neat and clean, their beds comfortable, and I am gratified at the progress my little daughter has made in her studies. If it will not be asking too much I would be very glad indeed to learn something in regard to the publications against the management of the Institute, also to be informed in regard to the result of the investigations."

13. December 4th, Mr. Dan. Foster, Cagle, Miss., writes : "I have one son in that Institute. His name is John S. Foster, age 21 years last January. He has been there four sessions prior to this session. He has progressed in his studies very well. My son has never complained of the treatment. He has always said that he got plenty to eat, and he is always anxious to go back when school opens. I have heard my son speak often of bathing, but don't know whether or not they are required to do so. I have never heard any complaint of the washing. I went with my son when he entered school and stayed two days. I found everything neat and clean and well managed."

14. December 5th, Mr. W. P. Musselwhite, Smith's Mills, writes : "I have two boys at the Institute. Their names are Louis and Harry. Louis is sixteen and Harry is fourteen. Harry has been there every session since the day he was nine years old. This is the third session for Louis. They both seem to be learning tolerably fast. Harry is very well satisfied down there; they both complain of their food not being cooked done. They say their fare is good enough if it were properly cooked. I have never heard either of them say that they had been mistreated since they have been there. They said they had to bathe and put on clean clothes once every week and oftener if it was necessary. I heard no complaint of irregularity of the washing but they say they can't get any shirts and collars washed and ironed to suit them. I am very well satisfied with their treatment."

15. December 5th, Mr. G. S. Edmonson, Styx, Miss.: "I have two children now at the Asylum for the Blind, Miss Janie Edmonson, age twenty-six years and Charlie Edmonson, age nineteen years. They both entered February, 1887. Janie has been a constant attendant up to date. Charlie has lost some time. Janie has made fine progress, has learned rapidly. Charlie has not taken the same interest, and hence has not progressed as well in his studies, but has nearly mastered a good trade. I have never heard a murmur from either of them as to treatment. So far as I know they have had plenty to eat. I suppose they have been kept clean. They seem to be satisfied and willing to return every year."

16. December 8th, Mr. W. H. Moore, Hemingway, Miss., writes : "I have a son at the Blind Institute at Jackson, Miss. I took him there the 6th day of October, 1893. I visited all the departments of the Institution. I found all in perfect order. I judge Dr. P. Fairly to be a christian and an honest man, and a gentleman."

17. December 8th, Mr. W. W. Byrd, Barbara, Perry

county, writes: "My little girl is fourteen years old. Her name is Julia. She has been going four years and has progressed nicely in her studies. I am well pleased, and she is too. I feel very thankful to the good people of the Blind Institute."

18. December 8th, Mr. J. J. Turner, Mantachie, Miss. writes: "I have one child there, a girl named Pearl Turner nine years old. She was there last session. She has learned as fast as I could wish. She was kindly treated as far as I could find out. So far as I could learn there was plenty of food, but not well cooked, and all served in a mess—three or four things put on a plate at once, and she being blind could not keep from getting them mixed so she could not eat them. They were required to bathe regularly. I don't know whether their clothes were washed and changed as often as they should have been or not. I carried Pearl down there well and hearty, and when I went after her she had fallen away until if I had met her anywhere else I don't think I would have known her. She was suffering from indigestion; also Dr. Fairly had taken a clipper and shaved her head without consulting me or letting me know anything about it, and I think without any cause, and had acted so about some other things as to cause us to lose confidence in him. Now, I don't wish to do Dr. Fairly an injustice, so you must remember that I am foolishly fond of my children, and more so of Pearl on account of her misfortune."

19. December 12th, Mr. J. J. Guyton, Guyton, Tippah county, writes: "I never was more favorably impressed with an institution than I was with the Blind Institute at Jackson, Miss., both as to the superintendent, teachers and the surroundings generally. Dr. Fairly carried me through the entire building, and took great pains in explaining to me the workings of the Institution. I found everything neat and clean. He carried me to the bath rooms and told me that all the students were required to bathe at least once a week and oftener if necessary. He turned up the mattresses and told me that they were made in the Institution. I found them clean, besides the bedding was clean; also went to the kitchen and water closets and I saw nothing on the whole round to object to; in fact my conclusion was that the Institution was a credit to the State, and that the State was fortunate in securing the services as such a man as Dr. Fairly to preside over it; and as to the teachers I am sure that they will compare favorably with any teachers in similar institutions in the United States. The idea that Dr. Fairly or the teachers of the Institution would put up with such filth as I see paraded in the papers recently, I cannot

believe, in fact, I feel certain that they would not put up with it. I say this much for the reason that I feel is due Dr. Fairly and the teachers of the Institution. I went through the Blind Institute of Kentucky a little over a year ago, and while it is larger and on a grander scale than ours, yet it seems to me that ours will compare favorably with that institution. My son is well pleased at the Institute, and I am satisfied is well treated. I have not seen him since taking him to Jackson but have two or three letters from him every week, besides have had several friends to call on him recently, and he seems well contented, and getting along well with his studies. Besides all this, I must here add that my wife has had two of the kindest letters from Mrs. Dr. Fairly in regard to our dear boy that I ever read. She said in one of these letters to write her if she had any special wish in regard to him. Besides this I am satisfied that all the teachers have been exceedingly kind to him. Now Governor, you have my statements and impressions as to the Institute, and I feel that I would be a very ungrateful creature did I not entertain the kindest feelings for the superintendent and teachers of this institution."

20. December 15th, Mrs. C. Johnson, Red Lick, Jefferson county, writes: "I have a daughter at the Blind Institution, and has been there two months this year; and has been an inmate for nine years, more or less. She is devoted to Dr. Fairly and the Langley family that has charge of the Institution, and all your questions have no weight at all. She has been, and is, perfectly satisfied with the treatment she receives. Her age is thirty years."

21. December 19th, Mrs. M. E. Hickman, Brookhaven, writes: "I have two blind children, a daughter and son, Eudora and Ben Hickman. Eudora is thirty-one, and Ben, twenty years old. Eudora left six years ago. Ben is still there, working in the shop, but not at school. He went eight sessions to school. Dr. Fairly was kind enough to let him go three more sessions. Eudora progressed very well in her studies, especially in music, mathematics and elocution. Ben progressed more in the shop. They have always been treated very kindly, have been provided with proper food, have been required to bathe all over once a week, and their clothes were always washed regularly. I never visited the Institution during the time my children were there; all I know is what they have told me. They were always neat and clean, but common, when they came home."

22. December 21st, Mr. A. T. Steed, Newtonville, Miss., writes: "I have one son there, named Jodie, sixteen years

old; been there six years. I am fully satisfied with his advancement. While I have not been perfectly satisfied with the general treatment, I have had no serious objections in the main. The food is sufficient, but is not cooked well, especially the beef. The bathing seems to be sufficient, as they are required to bathe once a week. Could not say as to the regularity of the clothes washing, but always have noticed that my son brings home clothes that are very filthy. Do not know how often they changed clothes. Not knowing, or even hearing, that there were any objections being alleged against the management of the Institute, I have not made any inquiries."

23. December 21st, Mr. T. L. Mason, Mound City, Bolivar county, father of Miss Alice Mason, about whom such fearful stories were told, writes: "I carried my daughter, Alice Mason, to the Blind Institute in the month of October, 1886, and during my stay there I was shown or taken over the entire building by Miss Mamie Langley. I found everything about the rooms perfectly clean. Alice is 16 years old, and has been going ever since 1886, and I can truthfully say she has learned rapidly, and according to her statement to me, she has been treated very kindly. Her food has been very good indeed, and she tells me that pupils are required to bathe and keep clean. On her return home I meet her myself, and can say I find her perfectly clean, and on examining her trunk I find all of her clothing neatly washed and ironed, and placed in the trunk neatly. I will say I think from observation they change clothing as often as necessary."

24. December 24, Mrs. M. J. Crenshaw, Paynes, Miss., writes: "I have a daughter at the Blind Institute, and has been there several sessions. We have never heard any complaint from her at all. She has progressed well in her studies, and as for cleanliness, they were required to take their baths regularly, and her clothes were always kept neat and clean; and she was required to change just as often as she thought necessary. She said they always had plenty to eat, but very badly cooked. Her name is Mamie J. Crenshaw, age 21. She was always perfectly devoted to her teachers."

25. December 18th, (but not received until the 29th) A. G. Smith, Owens, Holmes county, writes: "I have a little daughter named Amy who has been in the Institution for the Blind since January, 1892, aged 9 years. Her progress in the Institute was quite satisfactory. She was treated kindly by her teachers, so far as I know. She, I believe, had a sufficiency of proper food. She was required to bathe and change clothing every Saturday morning, and again on

Sunday for Sabbath school. I think a change of clothing on Wednesdays and Saturdays would have been better."

After which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, Certain charges have been preferred against the management of the Institute for the Blind, and the Board of Trustees having made a full, fair, impartial and thorough investigation into the same, and after a patient hearing of all the evidence, fully exonerated the superintendent and matron of the Institute from all blame, and

WHEREAS, L. F. Chiles, "Mayor of Jackson," persists in gross attacks upon the superintendent and the Institution, which are unjust and unwarranted, therefore

Resolved, That it is the sense of this board, after a careful investigation, that the Institute for the Blind is properly conducted by Dr. P. Fairly and those under him, and that the pupils are provided with proper food ; that they are well taught, properly cared for and kindly treated ; and that the said attacks of the said Chiles are without foundation in fact.

J. M. STONE, President,
C. H. MANSHIP,
E. VIRDEN,
H. H. HINES,
E. M. PARKER.

I was not present at the special meeting of the Board of trustees on the 23rd inst., but was present during the investigation referred to, and indorse the foregoing resolution, adopted on the 23rd inst.

J. T. H. LAIRD.

DECEMBER 26th, 1893.

